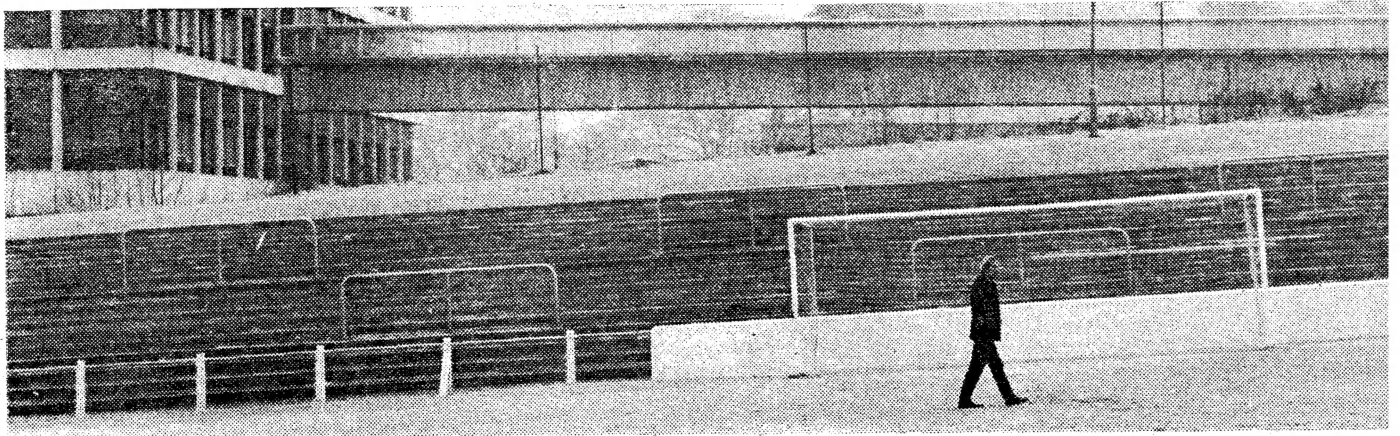


KILLER SLOPE



Wycombe chairman Jack Smethurst . . . and the uphill task confronting Middlesbrough.

BRIAN LEE, 38-year-old manager of FA Cup giant-killers Wycombe Wanderers, woke up today with that champagne feeling and roared. "We have some shocks in store for Middlesbrough."

Lee's team of amateurs tackle Jack Charlton's First Division side in the third round on January 4 at Loakes Park with its notorious sloping pitch. A pitch with an 11ft. slope from one side to the other.

Dark

A killer slope that strikes fear into teams of the calibre of Middlesbrough, who will not know what has hit them when they turn up next month.

Charlton, who met up with Lee during the 1966 World Cup when he was training with England at Lilleshall — Lee was de-

puty director there — said today:

"I'm in the dark about Wycombe. I did not even know which competition they played in."

"My assistant manager, Harold Shepherdson, prepares the dossier on future opposition, and he saw Wycombe knock out Bournemouth in last night's replay."

"We do not want any

David and Goliath act at our expense. There is too much at stake.

"Wycombe will be spied on at home more than once. We must learn more about their sloping pitch."

Charlton's first priority is to lift Middlesbrough after their 3-0 League Cup defeat at Manchester United last night.

Life for Lee, in contrast, is all joy right now.

Wycombe will give Jack a few shocks says boss



VICTOR RAILTON
face to face with
the giant killers

Controls

Lee, who now runs the National Sports Centre at Bisham Abbey on the banks of the Thames, could still hardly believe it all today.

He told me: "Wycombe have built their team on the lines of West Ham, whose manager Ron Greenwood has long been my idol."

"Our lads, a mixed bunch including school-teachers, estate agents and a bricklayer, play to enjoy themselves."

"At our level there is an appetite for the game. The lads play more for the manager than the club."

Discuss

"They know that the manager controls their soccer career, and that it is a challenge on both sides to work smoothly together."

"I have a great respect for professional football, and we should not have beaten Bournemouth."

"But they were more off-song than we were and the lads now have added confidence for the clash with Middlesbrough."

"Getting the lads in the

right frame of mind is a major factor. There can be no pie in the sky stuff."

"Everything we discuss is factual. Enjoyment and all-out fight go together in our 16-player squad."

"If a player has no confidence in me then he can go."

"Gordon Jago is another great pal of mine, but I shall not approach him or Ron Greenwood for any details about Middlesbrough."

"I've got to make my own decisions. I shall send several of the lads at various times to get an advance view of Middlesbrough."

"It's great to be associated with a winning side. I feel sorry for Bournemouth. I hope I shall feel the same about Middlesbrough next month."

SPORT NEWS

THESE are the men who have put Wycombe on the map.

JOHN MASKELL, 31-year-old goalkeeper, is a foreman fitter with British Leyland, in Oxford. Is in 12th season with the club.

PAUL BIRDSEYE, 24-year-old right back, is an estate agent in Newbury. He is a former Loughborough College and British Universities defender.

GARY HAND, 23, left back, was once an apprentice with Watford but reverted to amateur status with Hendon, and joined the club earlier this season.

KEITH MEAD, 29, a company director of a tiling firm at Uxbridge. He has won three England caps.

ALAN PHILLIPS, 28, an accountant who is a Welsh amateur international. Is a member of the British Olympic squad.

HOWARD KENNEDY, 25, is a local schoolteacher who arrived from Hendon

Accountant bricklayer teachers...

last season after experience with Leeds and Burnley.

TERRY REARDON, 29, fitter at Slough, who is a talented midfielder player.

MIKE HOLIFIELD, 26, the second estate agent in the team. He comes from Henley.

STEVE PERRY, 22, is the second schoolteacher in the team. Comes from Finchley and is a current England player. Was previously with Queen's Park Rangers.

TERRY HORSEMAN, 33, is the veteran of the side. Is a local furniture machinist.

KEITH SEARL, 27, is a local bricklayer and an England player.